
BEing ill us'd by false and mistaken Representations in writing, Published in Coffee-Houses and other Places, of what I said in my Place in the time of my Speakership in the last Parliament ; to prevent Falsities and Mistakes relating to what I have said in this Parliament, I am content these Papers be Printed by *Gabriel Kunholt*, and that no other Person presume to Print them : Withal, I desire all Persons to take notice, That I shall endeavour to bring such Persons to punishment, who shall hereafter Publish in Writing any thing relating to me, in my present time, without my approbation. Under my hand the 23 of *March*, 1680.

Wi: Williams, Speaker.

BEing ill us'd by false and mistaken Representations in writing, Published in Coffee-Houses and other Places, of what I said in my Place in the time of my Speakership in the last Parliament ; to prevent Falsities and Mistakes relating to what I have said in this Parliament, I am content these Papers be Printed by *Gabriel Kunholt*, and that no other Person presume to Print them : Withal, I desire all Persons to take notice, That I shall endeavour to bring such Persons to punishment, who shall hereafter Publish in Writing any thing relating to me, in my present time, without my approbation. Under my hand the 23 of *March*, 1680.

Wi: Williams, Speaker.

THE
S P E E C H

Of the Honourable

Will^m Williams, Esq;

SPEAKER of the HOUSE of COMMONS,

To the HONOURABLE

House of Commons,

U P O N

The Electing of him SPEAKER in the PARLIAMENT
At Oxford, Monday the 21st. day of March, 1680.

TOGETHER,

With his S P E E C H E S to His Most *Excellent*
Majesty, at the Presenting of him Speaker to His
Majesty by the Commons in PARLIAMENT, upon
Tuesday 22^d. day of the same Month.

L O N D O N,

Printed for Gabriel Kunholt, Book-Binder to his Highness
Prince R U P E R T; And are to be sold at his Shop at
the *King's-Head* over against the *Meuse*, and by *Langley*
Curtis in *Goat-Court* upon *Ludgate-Hill*. 1681.

THE
SPEECH

Harvard College Library,
Coolidge Fund,
October 25, 1939

Will. Williams, Esq;

SPEAKER of the HOUSE of COMMONS

To the HONOURABLE

House of Commons

BY

The Electing of him Speaker in the PARLIAMENT

At Oxford Monday the 27th day of March 1685.

TOGETHER

With his Speeches to His Most Excellent
Majesty at the Electing of him Speaker to His
Majesty by the Commons in PARLIAMENT, upon
Tuesday a 2d day of the same Month.

L O N D O N

Printed for Gabriel Ansell, Book-Binder to his Highness
Prince Rupert; And also to be sold at his Shop at
the Angel-Head over against the West-End, and by
Carter in Great-Court upon Ludlow-Street 1685.

(1)

THE SPEECH

Of the Honourable

Will. Williams, Esq;

To the House of

COMMONS,

Upon the electing of him Speaker, at Oxford,

Monday, 21. Mar. 1680.

GENTLEMEN;

IT were vanity in me by Arguments from Weakness and Unfitness to disable my self for your Service in this Chair at this Time.

The unanimous Voice of the House calling me to this Place enclues me, and leaves me without excuse: Whom the Commons have elected for this Trust is to be supposed worthy and fit for it; wherefore I must acquiesce in your Commands.

Apprehending this Choice proceeds from the Example you have from your Countries by your own Elections, making this Parliament, as much as in you and them lies, the same with the last; therefore you have the same Speaker.

B

I ought

I ought not to offer any sort of Assurance to this House of my resolved Constancy, Fidelity and Vigilancy in the discharge of this Duty; The just sense I have of the Honour generally given me this day is your stipulation for my good Abearance; the Trust I owe and am to answer to God, my Religion, to *England* and *Englishmen* in this Service, must tie me to doe and suffer all that Flesh and Bloud can add or endure in your Choice.

This is not the time to speak much, but to act well: Without more words then, in order to our proper Parliamentary Method of Proceedings, Gentlemen, admit me to make it my first Motion, That your Debates and Proceedings may be regular and orderly, without Reflection, without Passion; and that my Actions and Behaviour may have your kinde and candid Construction; and you shall find there is not any thing so dear to me which shall not be advanced in the Service of the Commons in Parliament by me.

THE

(3)

THE SPEECH

Of the Honourable

Will. Williams, Esq;

To His Most Excellent

MAJESTY,

At the Presenting of him Speaker by the Commons to His MAJESTY, at *Oxford*, upon
Tuesday, 22. Mar. 1680.

May it please your Majesty,
THE Knights, Citizens and Burgeses in Parliament assembled, with Duty and Loyalty agreeable to themselves and the Persons whom they represent, have in Obedience to Your Royal Pleasure, for the disposing of themselves in that great Assembly for Your Majesties Service, considered of a Speaker; and, to manifest to Your Majesty and the World they are not inclinable to Changes, have with one Voice elected me their Speaker, having had the Honour to serve Your Majesty and the Commons in that Trust in the last Parliament.

With

(4)

With all Humility I presume again by their
Commands to stand before Your Majesty to re-
ceive Your Pleasure with a Head and Heart full of
Loyalty to Your Sacred Person; armed with a
settled Resolution never to depart from Your well
ancient and established Government.

THE LORD
CHANCELLOR
BY HIS

Majesties Command

Said to this purpose.

Mr. Speaker,

FOR so I am commanded to call you, His
Majesty hath well considered the Choice
the Commons have made, and does very
much approve of that Election, and doth accept
and allow you for Speaker.

(5)

The further

SPEECH

OF

Will. Williams Esq;

Then Presented to

His Most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

Natural Allegiance commands Loyalty to Your Majesty from every Subject,

Your singular Grace and Favour to me in the last Parliament, continued by the honour I have in this, add more than Dutyfulness and Obedience to my Loyalty.

I am set in the first Station of your Commons for Trust and Quality; an high and slippery place: It requires a steady Head and a well poiz'd Body in him that will stand firm there: Uprightness is the safe Posture and best Policy, and shall be mine in this place, guarded with this Opinion, that Your Majesties service in this Trust, is one and the same with the service of your Commons, and that they are no more to be divided than Your Crown and Scepter.

They truly serve the Crown and Countrey, (which shall be my Care and Indu-

stry) who make the safety of Your Sacred Person, the Defence and Security of the Protestant Religion, the Support of Your Majesties Government, the Maintenance of the Laws, and Preservation of the ancient Constitutions of Parliament ; one and the same undivided Interest, one and the same Safety, one and the same inseparable Security, for Your self and People.

These are the Desires of all good men but must be the effects of good Counsels, for the enabling of Your Majesties great Council now in Parliament assembled, to compleat this blessed Establishment with all humility. I address to your Majesty in the name, and on the behalf of the Commons in Parliament.

I. That We and our Servants may be free in our Persons and Estates, from Arrests and other Disturbances.

II. That in our Debates, Liberty and Freedom of Speech be allowed us.

III. That as Occasion shall require, Your Majesty will vouchsafe us access to Your Royal Person.

I take leave to joyn this humble Petition for my self, That nothing by me in Weakness, or through Inadvertency, said or done, may turn to the Prejudice of the Commons, and that my Behaviour and Proceedings may receive a benign and favourable Interpretation with your Gracious Majesty.

The Lord Chancellor, by Command from his Majesty, said to this Effect.

Mr. Speaker,

ALL your Petitions are fully and freely granted by His Majesty, in as large and in ample a manner as ever any House of Commons yet enjoyed them: The King is very sure the Wisdom of this House of Commons, will make as prudent an use of them, as any of your Ancestors ever did: Your own particular Petition is grateful to the King too, because he knows you will be careful to avoid mistakes as His Majesty is ready to forgive them.

And now Mr. Speaker, these Preliminaries being thus over, the King desires you would hasten to the rest that are necessary to be dispatch'd, before we can enter upon Business, that so we may husband time, which is now more necessary than ever, and he hopes that this Parliament will come to a very happy and prosperous Conclusion, and that it may do so, God Almighty Direct and Prosper all your Consultations.

F I N I S.